

BEFORE THE
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

MAIL PROCESSING NETWORK
RATIONALIZATION SERVICE CHANGES, 2012

DOCKET No. N2012-1

**RESPONSES OF
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION WITNESS DAVID BORDEWYK TO
USPS INTERROGATORIES USPS/NNA-T2-16
(June 1, 2012)**

National Newspaper Association Witness David Bordewyk (NNA-T-2)
hereby provides his responses to interrogatory of the Postal Service, USPS/NNA
T2-16.

Respectfully submitted,

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USPS/NNA-T2-16. Please refer to page 8, lines 2 through 7, of your testimony. There you state, "One theme resonated throughout these comments: South Dakotans oppose the proposed wholesale consolidation and closure of mail processing centers in our state and the discontinuation of Saturday mail delivery. Our state would suffer. Our economy would suffer. South Dakotans who depend on timely mail delivery for medical prescriptions, business mail, news, legal documents and much more would be negatively affected." Please also review page 53, lines 5 through 24, page 54, and page 55, lines 1 through 9 of the official transcript of the field hearings in Chicago, Illinois on Monday, June 21, 2010, in Docket No. N2010-1 (testimony of Ken Czarnecki, Senior Vice President, Caremark Mail Pharmacies), available at http://www.prc.gov/Docs/68/68858/Hearing__06-21-2010.pdf.

(A) Is there any reason to believe that South Dakota recipients of medicine delivered via the mail are not notified by their suppliers that their prescriptions need to be refilled? If your answer is affirmative, please state the basis for your answer.

(B) Please state your understanding of the percentage of medical prescription shipments that are delivered to recipients in South Dakota by:

- (i) Express Mail;
- (ii) Priority Mail;
- (iii) First-Class Mail;
- (iv) Standard Mail; and
- (v) Non-postal delivery service providers.

(C) Assume hypothetically that the delivery time for First-Class Mail mailpieces containing prescription medicines is enlarged by one day in the rationalized mail processing network. Please confirm that, ceteris paribus, the recipient could avoid a delay in the receipt of his or her prescription medication delivery by placing his or her order one day earlier than he or she would have placed it in the current mailing environment (*i.e.*, the status quo). If you do not confirm, please explain the basis for your response.

RESPONSES:

(A) I have no personal knowledge of the array of practices that mail-order pharmaceutical companies follow to notify individuals that their medications are due for a refill. I would assume there are host of reasons people do not request refills until their supply is empty, including the fact that many are infirm or otherwise impaired and that daily management of their affairs presents a serious

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challenge. I am aware that for some people the expense of a co-pay presents an additional issue that may discourage them from seeking refills until the last minute. I am not certain that all prescriptions are filled via a mail-order pharmaceutical company. It may be that some individuals living in rural areas are relying on an independent pharmacy located in a community that may be 30, 50 or more miles away to fill their prescription and send it to them. I also note that in this same hearing, Mr. Czarnecki expressed his serious concern with a retraction of services--in that case Saturday delivery--as presenting challenges to mail recipients and to his own company in growing the use of the mail. Please see his comments on p. 34, lines 8-11. I do not know Mr. Czarnecki, but I would presume any slowdown in mail delivery would cause his company concerns.

(B) I have not looked into the manner of shipping used for medical prescriptions.

(C) Confirmed if, indeed, all things were equal. But I am not assuming that massive changes in the USPS network will slow the mail only a day. And I do assume that there are significant and legitimate reasons why people--particularly sick people--could not easily adapt to this change. For some, it's not simply a matter of a refill on an existing prescription. Some rural residents may be forced to rely on mail delivery on a new prescription ordered by their physicians. Weather, illness or great distances may prohibit them from traveling to personally pick up the prescription and therefore must rely on mail delivery. Please see my response in part (A).